

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OVIP (IAKOVOS, ARCHBISHOP)

SUBJECT: ARCHBISHOP IADOVOS IN ATHENS

1. SUMMARY. GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA ARRIVED IN ATHENS JANURY 23 FOR SIX-DAY VISIT OSTENSIBLY TO CELEBRATE MEMORIAL MASS FOR DECEASED FRIEND BUT WITH STRONG POLITICAL OVERTONES. ARCHBISHOP WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY VARVITSIOTIS, CHURCH PRELATES AND EMBOFF. IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND INTERVIEW, IAKOVOS SPOKE DIPLOMATICALLY OF PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, ABOUT U.S. POLICY ON CYPRUS ISSUE. GREEK PRESS AND TELEVISION PLAYED INTERVIEW STRAIGHT WITH EXCEPTION OF MELLON WHICH ALLEGED ARCHBISHOP WAS BRINGING A "JUST SOLUTION" WITH HIM TO CYPRUS PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR WILL MAKE COURTESY CALL ON ARCHBISHOP. END SUMMARY.

2. IAKOVOS SAID PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS WITH COMPETENT AUTHORITIES CERTAIN PROBLEMS FACING THE ARCHBISHOPRIC OF AMERICA. HE INDICATED HE WOULD ALSO

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CONFER ON MATTERS CONNECTED WITH GREEK NATIONAL LIFE BOTH

AT HOME AND ABROAD. ASKED WHETHER HIS TALKS WOULD INCLUDE THE CYPRUS ISSUE, ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS SAID HE WISHED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH COMPETENT OFFICIALS ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY GREEK-AMERICAN ACTIVITY ON THE INALIENABLE CLAIMS OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT PEOPLE. GREEK-AMERICANS WERE UNITED ON THIS QUESTION, HE SAID.

3. ASKED TO COMMENT ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, HE SAID: "I BELIEVE AMERICAN POLICY ON THE MATTER HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY INFLUENCED, EVEN SUFFICIENTLY ALIGNED, I WOULD SAY, NOT MERELY WITH OUR DESIRE BUT ALSO WITH A SENSE OF JUSTICE. FURTHERMORE, I HAVE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AT THIS VERY MOMENT IS PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER, PERHAPS MORE THAN PREVIOUSLY."

4. TO A QUESTION ON RECENT PRESS REPORTS QUOTING PRESIDENT FORD AS SAYING THAT HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE EVENTUALITY OF A GREEK-TURKISH CONFLICT, ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS SAID: "I AM NOT AWARE OF SUCH PRESS REPORTS. BUT KNOWING HOW WISE MR. FORD IS, I WONDER WHETHER HE DID SAY SUCH A THING. I AM CERTAIN THAT THE U.S., IF SUCH AN EVENTUALITY DID EXIST, WOULD DO EVERYTHING FOR IT NOT TO EXIST."
KUBISCH

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